

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A focal plane shutter comprising: a shutter blade capable of blocking a light; a blade dowel attached to the shutter blade; and a blade arm which is slidably engaged with the blade dowel to open or close the shutter blade,

~~wherein a surface hardness of said blade dowel is higher than a surface hardness of said blade arm;~~

the surface hardness of said blade arm is in the range of Hv300 to 900, and the surface hardness of said blade dowel is in the range of Hv450 to 1000, the respective surface hardesses being selected with said ranges such that the surface hardness of said blade dowel is always higher than the surface hardness of said blade arm,

said blade arm and said blade dowel [are] being subjected to a chemical polishing treatment,

said blade dowel [is] being plated with nickel, chromium, palladium or rhodium, and a material of said blade dowel is one of a free-cutting stainless steel [or] and a carbon tool steel, and a material of said blade arm is a carbon tool steel.

2. (Currently Amended): A focal plane shutter comprising: a shutter blade capable of blocking a light; a blade dowel attached to the shutter blade; and a blade arm which is slidably engaged with the blade dowel to open or close the shutter blade,

~~wherein a surface hardness of said blade dowel is higher than a surface hardness of said blade arm;~~

the surface hardness of said blade arm is in the range of Hv300 to 900, and the surface hardness of said blade dowel is in the range of Hv450 to 1000, the respective surface being selected within said ranges such that the surface hardness of said blade dowel is always higher than the surface hardness of said blade arm,

said blade arm and said blade dowel [are] being subjected to a chemical polishing treatment,

said blade dowel [is] being plated with nickel, chromium, palladium or rhodium, and a material of said blade dowel is one of a free-cutting stainless steel [or] one of a carbon tool steel, and a material of said blade arm is a titanium material.